

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in connection with the above-identified §371 national stage application based on PCT International Application No. PCT/ US2003/012679, filed April 23, 2003, which claims priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/374,929, filed April 23, 2002. Although thirty months from the priority date was October 23, 2004, the above-identified §371 national stage application is being submitted together with a Petition For Revival Of An International Application For Patent Designating The U.S. Abandoned Unintentionally Under 37 C.F.R. 1.137(b). Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

A new **Abstract of the Disclosure** is referred to on page 3 of this paper and attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 4 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.